

# Interim Delta Actions

July 17, 2007

**C**alifornia is facing a Delta crisis. The Delta is a critical part of California's natural environment and our water delivery system. But the current Delta is fragile and not sustainable. Several long-term processes are under way to solve Delta problems, but none will make recommendations about future actions earlier than the end of 2007.

Governor Schwarzenegger is taking action now to improve Delta conditions. This information sheet lists immediate actions – those that the Governor will put in place immediately as well as measures that the Administration is already implementing this year. In addition, there are measures that must be part of a comprehensive water package this year.

These actions are not intended to replace recommendations from ongoing Delta planning efforts. Instead, they are intended to make incremental improvements until long-term plans are in place. These actions are designed to (1) help protect and restore Delta habitat and species, (2) improve our ability to respond to catastrophic Delta failures, or (3) help water users cope with supply interruptions. These are “no regrets” actions that are likely to be compatible with any long-term Delta plan and not preclude future options.

| Immediate Actions – These actions are under way or the Governor has called for them to begin immediately  | Under Way | New Action |
|---|-----------|------------|
| <b>Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species – \$250,000 in 06-07; \$1 million in 07-08</b> Invasive species can compete with native species like Delta smelt and interfere with water deliveries. Emergency appropriations were made for Department of Food and Agriculture and Department of Fish and Game in 2006-07, and augmentations for these agencies are included in the Governor's 2007-08 budget. The State Water Project has also stepped up monitoring and response programs to cope with new potential invaders such as quagga mussels. | X         |            |
| <b>Improve Scientific Understanding of Smelt – \$1.145 million for three year contract with U.C. Davis</b> The State, working with federal agencies, will upgrade and continue operation of a Delta smelt culture laboratory located at the Department of Water Resources Banks Pumping Plant in the Delta. The lab will provide fish for experimental use and increase our understanding of smelt and how to propagate them.   | X         |            |
| <b>Screen Delta Agricultural Intakes to Protect Smelt – \$1.1 million</b> Install fish screens on the few remaining unscreened diversions used to irrigate state-owned lands on Sherman and Twitchell Islands in the Delta.   |           | X          |
| <b>Restore Habitat at Cache Slough in the North Delta – \$12 million</b> Restore tidal wetlands and aquatic habitat to provide spawning areas and promote production of planktonic organisms that are food for Delta smelt and other native fish. The State will begin restoration at Cache Slough as a mitigation project using State Water Project funding.   |           | X          |
| <b>Improve Ability to Respond to Delta Emergencies – \$10 million</b> Prepare to respond quickly if earthquakes or floods cause widespread Delta levee failure: prepare Interim Emergency Operations Plan, stockpile rock at an Interim Transfer Facility, fund development of local emergency response plans in the Delta, prepare a long-term multi-agency Emergency Operations Plan, stockpile rock and other materials at permanent transfer facilities, and conduct emergency response exercises.  |           | X          |
| <b>Frank's Tract Project – \$2 million</b> One or more channel barriers constructed near Frank's Tract could modify water circulation in the Delta, providing better fish protection, or better water quality, or increased Delta export supply.  | X         |            |
| <b>Subsidence and Sequestration – \$248,000</b> Conduct demonstrations on Sherman and Twitchell Islands or other locations to produce nutrients, reverse subsidence, and sequester carbon.  | X         |            |
| <b>Immediate Actions is \$27.7 million</b>  |           |            |

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| Interim Actions that must be part of a comprehensive water package this year.  | Cost in millions                     | New Action |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Restore Additional Delta Habitat</b> – Restore tidal wetlands and aquatic habitat to provide spawning areas and promote production of planktonic organisms that are food for Delta smelt and other native fish. Projects recommended for implementation include additional Cache Slough Habitat Enhancement and Dutch Slough Wetland Restoration.           | \$48                                 | X          |
| <b>Improve Ability to Respond to Delta Emergencies</b> – Augment funding to complete emergency planning, preparation and stockpiling of materials.   | \$74*                                | X          |
| <b>Offer Water Management Assistance</b> – Offer technical assistance to water suppliers to help prepare for droughts or other water shortages. Facilitate water transfers and water sharing agreements, particularly south of the Delta. Provide incentives for water conservation. Provide leak detection assistance to small and disadvantaged communities. | \$5 for 07-08 program                | X          |
| <b>Low Flow Screen at SWP Delta Intake</b> – Evaluate construction of a new fish screen at State Water Project facilities in the Delta. This screen would permit limited Delta diversions to occur even when smelt were present near the SWP pumps.  | \$2.25 for 07-08 study               | X          |
| <b>Frank's Tract Project</b> – Use additional funding to expedite the analysis of a project that could protect fish, improve Delta water quality, or increase water supply.  | \$0.25 for 07-08 additional staffing |            |
| <b>Subsidence and Sequestration</b> – Use additional funding to expedite demonstration and pilot projects such as a 180-acre rice growing pilot project on Twitchell Island.   | \$3.5 for 07-08 projects             |            |
| <b>Interim Actions Total: \$133 million</b>  |                                      |            |

\* Includes \$10 million in Immediate Actions funding